



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Scripture

II Corinthians 1:3-11

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Song

Psalms 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare

By John Newton, author of Amazing Grace

Based on Solomon's prayer request in II Kings 3:5-9

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare: (suit means appeal or plea)

Jesus loves to answer prayer;

He himself has bid thee pray,

Therefore will not say thee nay.

Thou art coming to a King,

Large petitions with thee bring;

For His grace and power are such,

None can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin:

Lord, remove this load of sin;

Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,

Set my conscience free from guilt.

Lord, I come to Thee for rest,

Take possession of my breast;

There Thy blood bought right maintain,

And without a rival reign.

While I am a pilgrim here,
Let Thy love my spirit cheer;
As my Guide, my Guard, my Friend,
Lead me to my journey's end.

As the image in the glass
Answers the beholder's face,
Thus unto my heart appear;
Print Thine own resemblance there.

Show me what I have to do,
Every hour my strength renew:
Let me live a life of faith,
Let me die Thy people's death.

("Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare" words John Newton, Public Domain, CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

Prayer

***II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

A Prayer for the World

Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

You alone are holy and righteous.

We gather with believers all over the world, to humble ourselves before You,
to pray, to seek your Face and to turn from our wicked ways,
to intercede for the lost, the hopeless, the helpless and the world.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father in heaven,

Thank You for loving the world so much that You gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins so that we could be reconciled to You and adopted into your Family.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Let your Kingdom be established in every nation of the world,

Your will be done through the transformation among peoples of all tribes and languages, so that righteousness and justice will prevail.

We call on You for the salvation of the unsaved, for the unreached and for those who have never heard about Jesus Christ, our Lord.

May Your Name be great, from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Father of mercy and grace,

We have sinned.

Our world is gripped by the power of sin.

Our hearts are grieved by injustice, hatred and violence. We are shamed by oppression, racism, corruption, rape, theft and bloodshed in our land.

We mourn all loss of life in murder, abortion, war and terrorism.

Lord, have mercy on us, forgive our sins and heal our land.

Lord Jesus Christ,

You destroyed sin, conquered death and defeated Satan.

Deliver us from demonic oppression and from the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deliver us from demonically-inspired financial, religious and ideological systems, from poverty, slavery and tyranny. Remove the veil of darkness that covers the peoples. Restrain the evil that promotes violence and death.

Lord, have mercy on us and deliver us from evil.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Grace, Spirit of Truth,

Anoint us to bring healing to the sick, deliverance to the oppressed and to comfort those who mourn.

Strengthen those who care for the sick and grant wisdom for a cure for the Covid-19 virus.

Fill us with love and compassion for the homeless, the hungry, the orphans, the elderly and the marginalized.

Lord, have mercy on us and heal our diseases.

Lord Jesus Christ,

Head of the Church,

we confess that our homes are broken and our churches divided.

Our lives are polluted by selfishness, greed, idolatry and sexual perversions.

We draw near to You for forgiveness, healing and restoration.

We need wisdom and insight for the global financial crisis

and how to use the resources of the Earth for the well-being of all.

Lord, have mercy on us, sanctify and consecrate us.

King of Glory,

Come and finish Your work in our cities, our peoples and our nations.

From all continents and islands, we cry:

Lift up your heads, O you gates!

Be lifted up ancient doors

so that the King of glory may come in!

Come fill the earth with the knowledge of Your glory as the waters cover the sea.

The Spirit and the Bride say:

Amen! Come Lord Jesus!